

Message Text

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SUBJECT: CONTINUED TURKISH PRESS REACTION ON NATO SUMMIT;
DEMIREL-CARAMANLIS MEETING

REF: USIA 12095

1. ALL MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES JUNE 1 AND 2 GAVE EXTENSIVE
COVERAGE TO THE DEMIREL-CARAMANLIS MEETING IN BRUSSELS MAY 31.
THERE WAS ALSO SPECULATION THAT THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
MIGHT ADVANCE THE DATE FOR CONSIDERATION OF MILITARY
AID TO TURKEY.

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2. JUNE 1 HEADLINES INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: "THE TWO PRIME
MINISTERS AGREED TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION" - MILLIYET (LIBERAL

REFORMIST); "AGREEMENT REACHED TO SOLVE DIFFERENCES THROUGH PEACEFUL NEGOTIATIONS" - IN TERCUMAN (CONSERVATIVE) AND CUMHURİYET (MODERATE LEFTIST); "THE SECOND PEACE OPERATION WAS LAUNCHED AGAINST ME," CARAMANLIS SAID" - IN HURRIYET (MASS CIRCULATION, POPULAR); AND "THE SUMMIT WAS A POSITIVE ONE" - IN GUNAYDIN (MASS CIRCULATION, POPULAR).

3. JUNE 2 HEADLINES INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING: "A GREAT ADVANCE WAS ACHIEVED IN OUR RELATIONS," CARAMANLIS SAID" - IN MILLİYET; "TURKEY FREED HERSELF FROM ISOLATIONISM - THE U.S. CONGRESS WILL SPEED UP ITS DEBATE ON THE EMBARGO" - IN TERCUMAN; "HOW TO MEET TURKEY'S IMMEDIATE MILITARY REQUIREMENTS IS BEING STUDIED BY OUR ALLIES," DEMİREL SAID" - IN CUMHURİYET; "THE GREEK PREMIER FINALLY SAW THE REALITIES OF THE SITUATION IN CYPRUS" - IN HURRIYET; AND "DEMİREL-CARAMANLIS TALK LESSENED THE TENSION" - IN GUNAYDIN.

4. MOST MAJOR DAILIES JUNE 1 GAVE DETAILS FROM THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN BRUSSELS AFTER THE DEMİREL-CARAMANLIS MEETING MAY 31. MILLİYET REPORTED THE CONTENTS OF THE ENTIRE COMMUNIQUE AS READ BY MFA SPOKESMAN AKBİL AFTER THE BILATERAL MEETING. MILLİYET CORRESPONDENT SAMİ KOHEN, REPORTING FROM BRUSSELS, WROTE THAT "THE SUMMIT BETWEEN DEMİREL AND CARAMANLIS IS CONSIDERED AS A STEP LESSENING THE TENSION BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY." MILLİYET COLUMNIST ABDİ İPEKÇİ, IN HIS JUNE 1 COMMENTARY, FOCUSED ON A STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO GREEK DIPLOMATIC QUARTERS WHICH SAID THAT "HOT WAR WAS PREVENTED - NOW A DIPLOMATIC ONE STARTS." İPEKÇİ SUGGESTED THAT APPROACHING THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IN THE CONTEXT OF A DIPLOMATIC "WAR" ALSO WOULD NOT BRING SOLUTIONS TO THE ISSUES CONFRONTING THE TWO NATIONS.

5. MEHMET BARLAS, GUNAYDIN COLUMNIST, WROTE JUNE 1 THAT AVOIDING A CLASH BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY WAS A VERY HAPPY RESULT OF THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT, BUT THAT SOLVING THE PROBLEMS ACCORDING TO TURKEY'S INTERESTS WAS NOT ACHIEVED IN BRUSSELS. BARLAS CONTINUED JUNE 2 WITH FURTHER COMMENTARY ON THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT, SUGGESTING THAT DEMİREL MADE CONCESSIONS BECAUSE HE RAISED THE SUBJECTS OF CONTINENTAL SHELF RIGHTS
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AND THE FIR LINE. BARLAS CONCLUDED THAT "FOR THE SAKE OF SUCCESS, DEMİREL HAS SACRIFICED HIMSELF IN BRUSSELS WITHOUT REACHING ANY RESULT." A CUMHURİYET EDITORIAL JUNE 2 ALSO REGARDED THE BRUSSELS MEETING BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE AS USEFUL ONLY BECAUSE IT "REDUCED THE TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES," BUT THAT "IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CONSIDER TURKISH-GREEK NEGOTIATIONS IN BRUSSELS AS PROGRESS."

6. MILLİYET JUNE 1 QUOTED REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) CENTRAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER (AND FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER HALUK

ULMAN AS SAYING "WE ARE COMPLETELY IN THE DARK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON CYPRUS." MILLIYET FURTHER QUOTED ULMAN AS SAYING, "WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT IN BRUSSELS OVER CYPRUS AND THE ARMS EMBARGO? WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF PROPOSALS THEY TOOK THERE. HOWEVER, WE FEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALSO UNAWARE OF IT ALL, BECAUSE THE PARTIES WHICH FORM THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT COME TOGETHER AND ESTABLISHED A JOINT POLICY ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS." RPP CHAIRMAN BULENT ECEVIT, IN WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW IN THE ENGLISH-LANGUAGE TURKISH DAILY NEWS JUNE 2, SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE INITIAL TURKISH-GREEK CONTACTS AND WHERE THEY MIGHT LEAD BECAUSE "THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO PREFER METHODS OF CLOSED DIPLOMACY." CUMHURIYET EDITOR-IN-CHIEF NADIR NADI WROTE JUNE 1 THAT THE NATIONAL FRONT WILL BADLY NEED THE SUPPORT OF THE MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY (RPP). NADI STATED, "WE DO NOT THINK THAT ANY GESTURE OR APPROACH WITHOUT THE CONSENT OF THE RPP WILL BE ABLE TO REALIZE A SETTLEMENT BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE." AN UNSIGNED GUNAYDIN EDITORIAL JUNE 1 SUGGESTED THAT THE STRUCTURE OF THE NATIONALIST FRONT HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR TURKEY'S APPEARING TO BE WEAK AND ISOLATED IN FOREIGN POLICY. THE EDITORIAL STATED THAT "THE FRONTIST GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO PERSUADE PUBLIC OPINION THAT 'TURKEY WAS PUSHED INTO ISOLATIONISM BECAUSE OF ECEVIT'S FOREIGN POLICY.'"

7. CUMHURIYET JUNE 1 AND HURRIYET JUNE 2 REPORTED THE DECISION OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ADVANCE THE DATES FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE BILL TO RESUME MILITARY AID TO TURKEY. IT WAS REPORTED IN CUMHURIYET THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL CITE THE RESUMPTION OF THE GREEK-TURKISH DIALOGUE AS EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN CYPRUS AND IN THE
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RELATIONS BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE. CUMHURIYET ALSO REPORTED THAT, ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES, TURKEY'S WARNING OF ITS INTENTION TO CLOSE IMPORTANT U.S. BASES ALSO PLAYED A ROLE. HURRIYET REPORTED THAT A THREE-MAN TURKISH DELEGATION COMPOSED OF INDEPENDENT SENATOR MUKADDER OZTEKIN, JP SENATOR KAMURAN INAN AND RETIRED TURKISH AMBASSADOR MUHARREM NURI BIRGI, WOULD ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON ON THE EVE OF THE DEBATES TO TALK WITH CONGRESSMEN TO EXPLAIN THE TURKISH VIEW. (NOTE: OZTEKIN HAS SINCE CHANGED HIS PLANS -- SEPTEL.) AN UNSIGNED HURRIYET EDITORIAL JUNE 2 STATED THAT DEMIREL'S CONSULTATIONS WITH WESTERN LEADERS IN BRUSSELS WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TOPIC OF THE WEEK. THE EDITORIAL SAID THAT DEMIREL WAS EXPECTED TO APPROACH THE UNITED STATES WITH A CALMER ATTITUDE, BUT THAT "APPARENTLY HE HAS DONE THE CONTRARY AND TREATED AMERICA RATHER HARSHLY. WHETHER OR NOT THIS ATTITUDE HAS REFLECTED A SERIOUS POLICY WE WILL SOON SEE. FOR, DEMIREL WILL HAVE TO REACH A DECISION ON AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY AND IMPLEMENT IT SOON."

8. MILLIYET JUNE 1 AND GUNAYDIN JUNE 2 REPORTED THAT PROFESSOR EUGENE ROSTOW, FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE AND CHAIRMAN OF THE ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION, GAVE A LECTURE ON TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN WHICH HE TERMED A MISTAKE THE ARMS EMBARGO IMPOSED ON TURKEY. IT WAS REPORTED THAT ROSTOW SAID THAT THE CUTOFF OF MILITARY AID WAS THE RESULT OF CERTAIN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT HE HOPED THE HOUSE WOULD ADOPT LEGISLATION, AS DID THE SENATE, TO LIFT THE EMBARGO.

9. TERCUMAN COLUMNIST ERGUN GUZE REVIEWED THE RESULTS OF THE NATO SUMMIT IN HIS COMMENTARY JUNE2, SAYING THAT THE FIRST INDICATIONS WERE THAT "THE UNITED STATES WOULD HAVE FRIENDLIER RELATIONS WITH GREECE AND WOULD LEAVE TURKEY ALONE, AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING." ACCORDING TO GUZE, AS A REACTION TO THIS SOME SUGGEST THAT TURKEY SHOULD CLOSE AMERICAN BASES, BUT GUZE THEN WROTE, "WELL, WE CAN DO THIS. BUT WILL IT SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS SUCH AS THE CYPRUS ISSUE, THE CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE, THE FIR LINE, FISHING RIGHTS OR WESTERN THRACE? MACOMBER

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